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KidSafe UK Session 3 of 5: (Year 4/5/6)

Dear Parents/Carers,

During today's session we talked about keeping safe whilst using computers etc. The aim is to provide children with simple and effective skills to keep themselves safe whilst accessing computers or viewing films, playing computer games etc.

Topics covered : Dealing with inappropriate images and material on the internet; where else children may see or read unsuitable material i.e. mobile phones, DVDs, games, television etc; film classifications U, PG, 12A, 15 and 18 and why they are there; computer game classifications 3+, 7+ etc. and why they are there; mobile phone safety; how peer pressure can impact on what children watch and play.

Many children are watching films or using computer games via various devices that are classified as being unsuitable for their age. For example 10 year olds watching films or playing games classified as 15 or 18. We would urge all parents and carers to be aware of which films and games your children have access to. Some of the games mentioned are Call of Duty (COD) and Grand Theft Auto (GTA). For very good reasons these have an age rating of 18 and are not suitable for young children to play. These games are highly inappropriate and violent. There is substantial evidence that deep psychological harm can occur as a result of their use.

An explanation of film classifications is found on the cover of videos and DVDs and further information can be found at www.bbfc.co.uk. Computer game classifications can be found at www.pegi.info. Research has shown that exposure to inappropriate film or game content/material can cause children immediate or long term emotional distress or harm.

Awareness and monitoring of what children watch or play is an important element when keeping children safe from harm.

We welcome any comments you or your children have in relation to this session.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Gorley & Miss M Little